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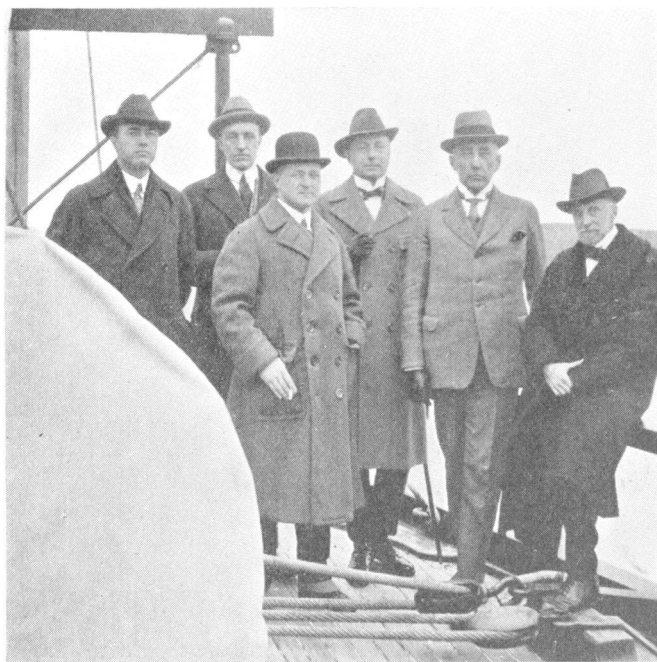
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ABOARD *THE CARNEGIE*, JANUARY 16, 1922

To the left are Captain J. P. Ault, of *The Carnegie*, and Mr. Colin, Captain Frølich Hanssen and Mr. Steen, members of the Norwegian Legation. To the right are Captain Roald Amundsen and Dr. Louis A. Bauer.

and the very blue light of some stars can be made to record itself on the special plates in spite of the sun. That is a possibility, in view of the progress of photography.

Since the velocity of light is a leading factor in the Einstein theory, it is now the subject of experiment by astronomers and physicists. The question whether blue or yellow light has the greater velocity has been answered. Probably varying wavelengths of light have the same velocity. The chances are five to one that the difference in the time of passage of blue light and yellow light through empty space is less than one second in three hundred years. This is the conclusion that has been announced by Dr. Harlow Shapley of the Harvard Observatory after a study of light from the remote globular star cluster, called Messier 5,

whose light takes 40,000 years to reach us.

Interest in Einstein has not waned since he came into general notice in 1919 or since his visit to this country in April of last year. The latest Einstein book is not an explanation of his theory, but a book about Einstein himself, "Einstein, the Searcher," a translation from Alexander Moszkowski, a friend and admirer.

EXPEDITIONS TO THE POLES AND THE TROPICS

ALTHOUGH the two poles have been conquered, the frigid zones still attract the typical explorer who goes to unknown parts of the globe to make additions to scientific knowledge.

Last September, Sir Ernest Shackleton and a little party on



Photographed, January 16, by Dr. Louis A. Bauer.

CAPTAIN ROALD AMUNDSEN

On board *The Carnegie* wintering in the Potomac River. Though the day was cold Captain Amundsen made a flying trip from New York unencumbered by an overcoat.

board the *Quest* started south to spend several years on a voyage around the coast line of the Antarctic continent. He planned to bring back scientific data on the magnetism, biology, oceanography, geology and meteorology of that region. Now news comes that Shackleton is dead, even before he began the real work of the trip that he planned as his "swan song." But his expedition will continue.

In Baffin Land at a place called Nauwatta, Dr. D. B. MacMillan and his expedition are wintering. They are busy making observations of magnetic, atmospheric-electric and auroral effects. They are in the land of mysterious polar lights, whose shooting rays dance in rhythm with the quivering magnetic needle. With the cooperation of the Department of Terrestrial Magnetism of the Car-

negie Institution of Washington, Dr. Louis A. Baner, director, special photographic instruments were carried into the polar regions for the first time. These should give data which will determine whether the aurora borealis comes close to the earth or whether it penetrates no deeper than sixty miles into the earth's atmosphere as Norwegian tests seem to indicate. Unexplored lakes in the interior of Baffin Land will probably be accurately placed on the map by Dr. MacMillan.

About June 1, Captain Roald Amundsen, the Norwegian explorer who discovered the South Pole, will set out from Seattle to make another attempt at drifting across the Arctic Sea frozen in the ice. Aboard the *Maud* will be instruments for determining the magnetism and the magnetic-electric effects at the different

parts of the Arctic that the ship will visit. Soundings of the sea and meteorological observations will also be made. There will be little leisure for Dr. H. U. Sverdrup, who will have charge of the scientific work of the expedition. It is rumored that Captain Amundsen, in addition to his interest in the scientific work, has a natural desire to be the first man to visit both ends of the earth.

While the coldest regions are being discovered and charted, there are also scientific men who will contend with the heat and life of the tropics. This spring the Carnegie Institution is again sending parties headed by Dr. Sylvanus G. Morley and Dr. C. E. Guthe into the ancient country of the Maya to learn the details of their ancient civilization. The Field Museum of Natural History at Chicago has announced that there will be six expeditions that will leave for the tropics before the summer is well under way, to be in the field from two to five years. Two geological parties will visit the area from Brazil to Patagonia. The Isthmus of Panama and the state of Colombia will be visited by an archeological expedition and another party will go to the Malay Peninsula to study the ethnology of that region. Peru will be searched by two expeditions, one zoological and the other botanical.

THE CONCILIUM BIBLIOGRAPHICUM

So fast and broad has been the progress of science during the last few decades that the all-around scientific man no longer exists. All that an earnest worker in science can hope to do is to keep fairly well informed in the small corner of the field of science that he has selected. But to keep complete track of the researches in a single subdivision of science is perhaps an even larger task than following a number of matters in a general way.

Contributions to science are being

made in practically all the countries of the world, reported in their own journals and in their own languages. The average student has access to only the limited library of his own college or institution. Few are so situated that they can see the bulk of the periodical literature even in their own field or have easy access to many new books.

Speaking in commercial terms, trade associations of science are needed. So are proper sales organizations and publicity departments, but that is another story. The point has been reached when the distribution of scientific knowledge among research factories is, because of the possibilities for the elimination of waste, an important enterprise for the progress of science itself. Production of science requires its proper distribution.

The re-establishment on a firm basis of the Concilium Bibliographicum at Zurich, Switzerland, which has just been accomplished, is an important step in improving the channels for the distribution of science. The International Catalogue of Scientific Literature is now officially dead from the prevalent financial disorder. The Royal Society could not take up its work completed only as far as the fateful year of 1914.

A stream of cards, 3x5, the library standard, has begun to flow out of the Concilium Bibliographicum. The contents of periodicals in the fields of zoology, physiology, evolution and anatomy are listed on these cards with title and author. The subject matter is indicated by a number in the elaborate system of classification that has been devised. Students, libraries and others can get just as many or as few of these cards as they wish. They can subscribe to all, or to those referring to one kind of butterfly. There are now subscribers in twenty-three countries, and one third of the total is in America.

The card system has advantages